

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 212002

13
ORIGIN SS-21

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /022 R

66011
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NEA - MR. ABINGTON

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R 260142Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T STATE 212002

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT JIDDA 5822 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 25

QTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 5822

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US
SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF JIDDA 5644, JIDDA 5482

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT PRINCE SAUD SAID AUGUST 16 THAT NOTE
WAS BEING PREPARED IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH WOULD ACCEPT
OUR SUGGESTION CONCERNING PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE JORDAN
AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. WHEN I INQUIRED THREE DAYS AGO OF THE
POLIT UNDERSEC (MANSOURI) HOW THE MATTER IS PROGRESSING, HE
REPLIED, "IT'S ALL RIGHT. PRINCE FAHD HAS IT." I SAID I WAS
NOT PRESSING HIM, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TIE THINGS UP BEFORE THE
BEGINNING OF RAMADAN.

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2. MANSOURI TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT "IT'S ALL APPROVED." I ASKED WHETHER MATTER HAD BEEN ACTED ON DURING YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING. HE SAID, "NO, PRINCE FAHD TOOK CARE OF IT HIMSELF. THE CABINET WAS NOT INVOLVED." I THEN ASSUMED WE WOULD BE RECEIVING A NOTE INFORMING US OFFICIALLY THAT OUR SUGGESTION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED WHY WE WANT A NOTE, ADDING THAT ALL OUR DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN ORAL. I SAID THAT'S WHY I WANT A NOTE IF I CAN GET ONE, OR AT LEAST A LETTER SAYING THAT WE MAY PROCEED ON THE ASSURANCE THAT SUGGESTION I MADE AUGUST 9 HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROVED. I SAID AT THE WASHINGTON END THEY WOULD PROBABLY NEED SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF WRITTEN OFFICIAL ASSURANCE FOR LEGAL REASONS. WITH SOME RELUCTANCE HE AGREED TO SEND ME A LETTER INDICATING SAUDI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL.

3. THAT IS THE WAY FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR ORDERS ARE HANDLED OUT HERE. CHARGE IT ALL UP TO PRE-RAMADAN LETHARGY.
PORTER

UNQTE
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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